

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTONDESCRIPTION OF A NEW OWL FROM ENGANO  
ISLAND.BY J. H. RILEY.<sup>1</sup>

In working on the birds of the Mentawi Islands, off the west coast of Sumatra, it became necessary for the writer to compare specimens from the other islands in the chain, stretching from Simalur in the north to Engano in the south, a distance of several hundred miles. Among the specimens examined was a female screech owl from Engano, related to *Otus umbra* of Simalur. The bird is quite distinct, however, and may be known as:

***Otus umbra enganensis*, subsp. nov.**

*Type*.—Adult female, U. S. National Museum, No. 180,711, Engano Island, November 12, 1904; collected by Dr. W. L. Abbott.

Similar to *Otus umbra* (Richmond) of Simalur, but bill and feet larger; darker on the back; feathers of the throat and jugulum with much white basally, making these parts lighter; much more white on the supraloral region and lores; cheeks much lighter; scapular spots suffused with cinnamon-buff and the blackish scapular terminal spot reduced almost to the vanishing point and dark brown rather than blackish. Wing, 142; tail, 64; culmen from cere, 13; tarsus, 28; middle toe, 24.5 mm.

*Remarks*.—The type of *Pisorhina umbra* Richmond<sup>2</sup> is a male and some of the differences pointed out above may be sexual, but Simalur and Engano are at the extremes of the chain of islands off the west coast of Sumatra and it is very unlikely that they will prove to be the same form. *Otus umbra* represents a different type of owl from the *Otus bakkamoena* group; it has less black in the plumage, the lower part of the tarsus is bare and the ear-tufts are poorly developed. Judging from descriptions, it belongs in the same group as *Otus luciae* (Borneo and Sumatra), *Otus alfredi* (Flores), *Otus angelinae* (Java), *Otus vulpes* (Gunong Tahan, Malay Peninsula), and *Otus vandewateri* (Korinchi Peak, Sumatra). According

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<sup>2</sup>Proc. U. S. National Museum, vol. 26, 1903, 494.

to Robinson and Kloss (Journ. Fed. Malay States Mus., vol. 8, 1918, p. 126), *Otus vulpes* is a synonym of *Otus luciae*; this would make the latter quite wide-ranging for this tropical type of owl. Sharpe proposed the generic name *Heteroscops* for *luciae*, but it has not been generally recognized as a distinct genus. *Otus vandewateri* is described as having a nuchal collar, while *Otus umbra* has no indication of one. As a matter of fact, *Otus umbra enganensis* should probably be given full specific rank, but for the present it is introduced as above.